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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 20 FEB 52

SUBJECT Projects to Widen the Gauge of
the Rumanian Railroads

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1. Three months ago the Scanteia, the official newspaper of the Rumanian Com-
~~unist~~ Party, published an article stressing the advantages of the Soviet
 railroad (wide) gauge.
2. It seems that the conversion of the Rumanian main lines is being planned
~~since~~ a committee has been set up at the Ministry of Communications to
~~study~~ the project.
3. Work for this purpose was carried out by Soviet troops in Moldavia and on
 the railroad track leading to Ploesti during 1944 and 1945. Later, at the
 request of the Rumanian Government, the Soviet gauge was left only on the
 line leading to Galati (Gara Larga) and Iasi.
4. The Rumanian Government, no doubt because of Soviet pressure, is now in
 favor of the wide gauge.
5. The Soviet trade delegation at Bucharest, has, reportedly, stressed in one
 of its reports the necessity of converting the Rumanian railroad lines
 to the Soviet gauge as soon as possible so that the difficulties of
 transshipment may be avoided.

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